

TORONTO'S PREMIER GAY LIFESTYLE DIGITAL MAGAZINE

MGT

We Know Gay

MY GAY TORONTO

ISSUE #51 OCT 15 - NOV 15, 2017.





MGT DIGITAL MAGAZINE

Issue #51 Oct 15 2017 - Nov 15 2017

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DO YOU WANT TO GET FEATURED IN NEXT ISSUE OF MGT?

What is your Gay Toronto?

Share your view of Gay Toronto with the rest of the world.

Photo by Matt Clopott



Would you like to share your original unique photos/videos of Toronto landmarks, events, parties, or anything that speaks to you as a proud gay Torontonian?

Email your photos at :
photos@mygaytoronto.com

Please do not send more than 8 photos, making sure to pick the ones that speak most to you and are of the best quality .
If video is something you prefer, you could also email us your video with www.wetransfer.com or email us your YouTube link to video.

Black and Blue Recap

SERGE BLAIS- PHOTOGRAPHE

Papara Serge



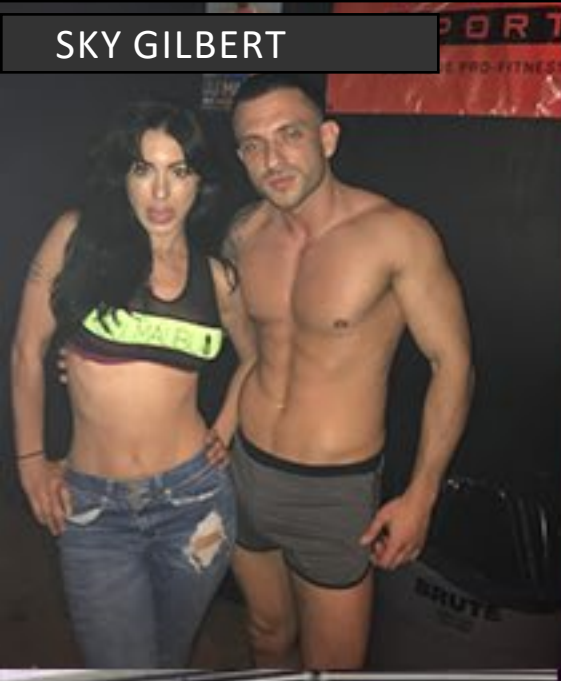
Black and Blue Recap I

MICHAEL TRAMBLAY



Black and Blue recap II

SKY GILBERT



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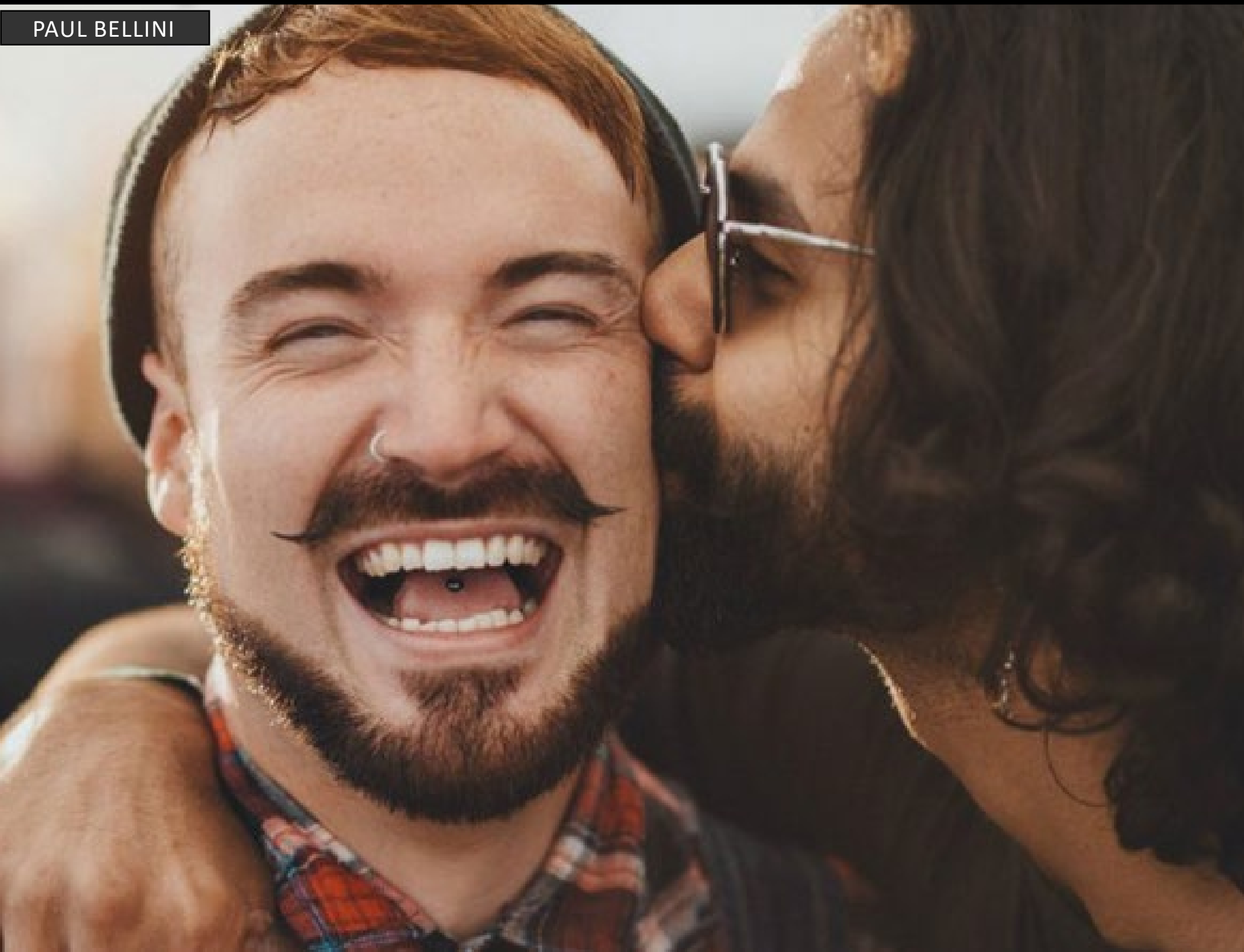
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“Androphile?” Really?

PAUL BELLINI



The website Hornet published an article by Alexander Kacala on October 10. It was about a European homosexual named Nicolas Chinardet who refuses to use the word ‘gay’ to describe his sexual desire for other men. Oh. “‘Gay’ has a certain lifestyle attached to it,” he declares, “which I don’t recognize myself in.”

You see, young Nicolas doesn’t “go clubbing. I don’t like shopping.” He explains that he doesn’t identify with “gay music, like Lady Gaga, Ariana Grande and Miley Cyrus” and “gay TV and movies, like Queer As Folk.” He also has a brain the size of a pea.

In order to distinguish himself from the pack, to position his personal personality in some sort of unique way, like so many of his generation, Nicolas has decided to come up with a new term for his cocksucking. He refers to himself as an “androphile.” He put the Greek prefix ‘andro’ (man) with the suffix ‘phile’ (lover). Voila! He’s an androphile. So are all heterosexual women.

The article goes on to mention a young gay man from Hamburg, Germany named Henning Diesel. I’ll give you a moment to absorb that name. Henning apparently shares alt-right memes, and he sucks cocks, but he also does not like to be called ‘gay.’ “Gay is part of the LGBT+ world that I never see myself as part of,” the 37 year-old explains. He describes his personality as having “typically male characteristics like courage or diligence — very traditional aspects.” Oh my, I do declare. One day I hope to meet a gay man with courage or diligence. Wait - that describes just about every gay man I’ve ever met. It comes with being the object of derision. Haters, including self-haters like Nicolas and Henning, have a way of making us tougher.

So it’s sort of come full circle. Those of us old enough to remember can remember a time when white gay men were on their own, without allies, without stereotypical tastes and behaviours. We weren’t called ‘gay.’ We were called ‘fags’ and ‘fairies.’ But really, Nicolas and Henning, what does it matter what any of us are called, so long as we aren’t being beaten up for it.

Michael Mejia creates living Tom of Finland characters

DREW ROWSOME



The gay dilemma in creating a perfectly fabulous Halloween costume is to balance unique and clever with showing as much skin as possible. Body paint artist Michael Mejia came up with the perfect solution when he transformed fitness models Anthony McDonough and Christopher Glebatsas into credible [Tom of Finland](#) characters come to life.

All the Tom of Finland iconic stylistic signatures - bulging muscles, pornstaches, big erect nipples and bulging bulges - now exist in living breathing flesh. The effect is erotic, startling, disturbing and just perfect for flaunting on Halloween (though the painted-on abs probably require a basic canvas beyond the ken of most mortal men).

Mejia is already famous for appearing on the television competition *Skin Wars* and on *RuPaul's Drag Race*. As well as creating art that lives and breathes, Mejia has a drag persona Unleashya and is a vocal activist combatting HIV stigma.

The good news is that Mejia is accepting bookings through his Facebook page for Halloween; the bad news is that he works out of LA. But even if his art piece is only taken as inspiration - both for costumes and for gym attendance - it is a work of imagination and homage that stuns and motivates. The only other complication is that after roaming Church Street in a costume so brazenly arousing, one will have to bone up on how to [remove body paint stains from sheets](#).



michaelmejiaart
New York, New York

Following



Shawn Hitchins overshares

PAUL BELLINI

Shawn Hitchins is the hardest working gay in show biz. Just last year, he released a feature film version of his one-man show *Ginger Pride*, and just last month he released his first book, *A Brief History of Oversharing*.

Some of you may know Hitchins as the ginger comedian. His bright red hair and blue eyes make for an unforgettable visage. "I'm totally exploiting this ginger identity until my hair falls out," he admits. But it's his awesome talents as a writer and performer that make it work. We meet at the Second Cup, and sit at the only table with a flower arrangement. It just seems right for us. Then we chat. I tell him I am a huge fan of his work. A decade ago, when he started writing for *fab Magazine*, I actually wrote him a fan letter. Few other writers ever made me laugh so hard. When I heard he published a book, a 'sort-of' autobiography, I had to get it. "It's all based on my life falling apart," he tells me.

A few years ago, he was just another struggling gay comedian, but everything changed when he took his show to the Edinburgh Fringe Festival. While there, he noticed a lot of other redheads, so he threw a spontaneous *Ginger Pride* march. It was so big it ended up on CNN and in *The New York Times*. "It hit everywhere, except Canada," he says. "We tried to do it again the next year, but it would have cost \$20,000 in advertising, staging, security, so I let the people take it over."



ONE GINGER'S ANTHOLOGY OF HUMILIATION
SHAWN HITCHINS



Rebranding himself as a ginger comedian made all the difference. "As a gay comedian, there would be three people in the audience, but as a ginger, there would be 150. It attracted a whole cross section of people, not just gays and lesbians. It's great to be able to speak to everyone. I mean, how do I get an audience to understand the stupidity of discrimination against gays? By talking about discrimination against gingers."

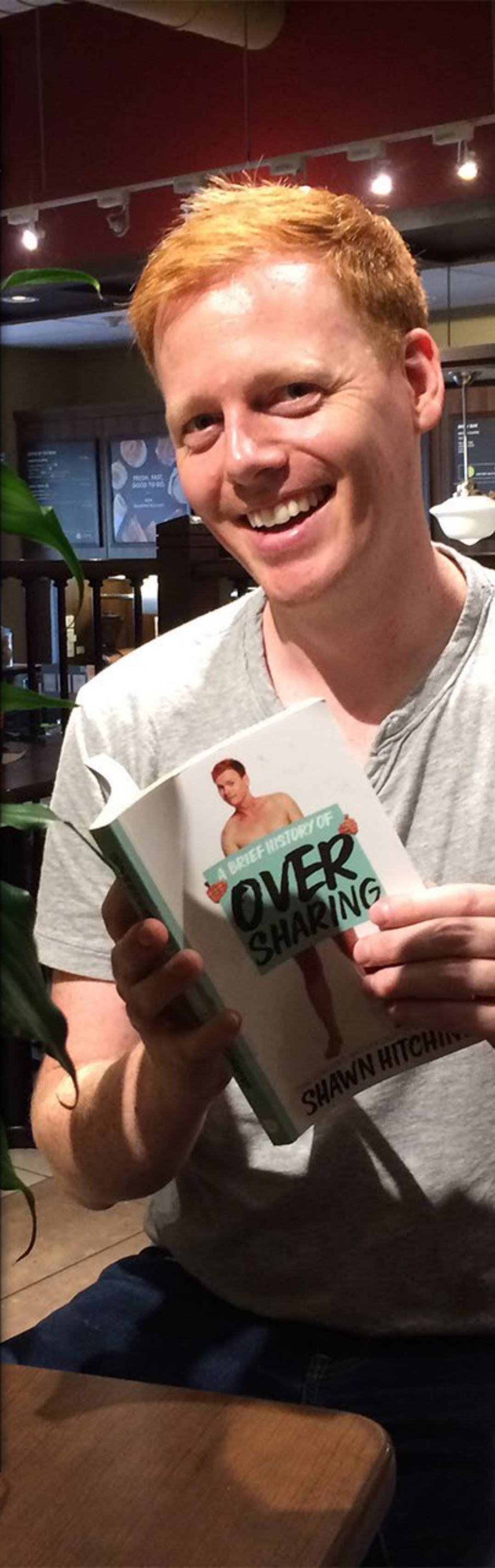
His flush of success led to a film and TV deal, "which was a disaster. I couldn't work for a year. It was months of negotiating, and it stopped the momentum on my show. We pitched it, but broadcasters wanted things like my character to have sex with the lesbian. I have no further interest in TV deals. As a gay man, you can't get past the executives."

But out of the ashes rose a phoenix. "Through that deal, I connected with a publisher, resulting in this book, which is also coming out as an audio book. And the film was a 'fuck you' to that TV deal. Once the rights of my show reverted back to me, I booked a theatre, wrote it and shot it in three weeks."

Hitchins started writing when he studied at Second City. "I never went to therapy, but had a lot of shit to deal with, so that turned into writing and that turned into all this." He toured a lot, but touring costs a lot. Nevertheless, it won't stop him from writing a new show. "I was called a 'faggot' outside of Home Sense the other day. I was dressed like shit, so why was I being called a fag? How does this person even know? So the next show is going to be about the word 'faggot'."

By far the most emotional part of A Brief History of Oversharing is when he became a father. A lesbian couple, close friends, asked him to be a sperm donor. He sees his daughter regularly. "That changed my life. So weird to see your face on a kid. But some gay guys can't wrap their heads around the idea of fatherhood, so it can complicate dating."

Finally, it is time to ask my big question. Has this ginger icon ever done it with another ginger dude? "Yes", he tells me, "but just once. I remember the two of us were expecting some sort of energy orb to appear, but alas, nothing happened." Nevertheless, Shawn Hitchins has proven that red hair is, if nothing else, an incredible force of nature.





R

EMINGTONSTM

Irene Gandy: Love and Show Business

RAYMOND HELKIO



Irene Gandy (aka Miss Gandy) is a Tony award-winning theatrical producer, legendary Broadway press agent and one of the most fashionable people ever to grace New York City. Perhaps more impressive is that at age 72 she's open about being a lesbian in an industry fuelled by misogyny, racism and homophobia.

Recently Miss Gandy dropped by the rehearsal space for producer Joanne Mosconi's latest creation, "[You Love That I'm NOT Your Wife](#)", about ten people living in Los Angeles who are looking for love in all the wrong places. The common thread between the characters is loneliness, yet they are all in these dysfunctional relationships that they can't seem to get out of.

Having faced her own set of challenges within the industry, Miss Gandy has some advice to share, "This is a tough business, that's why they call it 'show business' and not 'show play.' I handle my business like I handle my love life: I've learned to not compromise and to enjoy things for what they are. Sex is sex and love is love, I have learned to appreciate the difference and accept it as it is."



Irene Gandy reading lines with actor Len Rella who plays Dan in "You Love That I'm Not Your Wife".

SYMPTOMS
MAY INCLUDE
CHILLS



MGT COVER PHOTOGRAPHER. THE COLOURFUL WORLD OF

Mikey Sin

DREW ROWSOME



MIKEY **SIN** STUDIOS

Make Up by Amy Pigeon – [cru6 beauty](#)




“It’s human nature, for our eyes to naturally be drawn to colors and patterns. Kind of like bees being drawn to flowers,” says photographer/fashion designer Mikey Sin. *“Sometimes you don’t understand it, but the attraction is there drawing us in. Sight, colour, sound and energy ...it’s all connected.”*

MIKEY SIN STUDIOS

Head Piece Designed by Mikey Sin
Model : Leon Ciroc McDonald



Sin's photographs explode with popping candy-coloured energy. And so does his fashion line. I had the great pleasure of working with Sin when he was a photographer for fab magazine. The assignment was a cover shoot featuring the designs of the fabulous Greta Constantine. It was a smooth shoot with spectacular results, so I was excited to hear that Sin was the cover photographer featured in the next issue of MGT, the digital magazine version of MyGayToronto.com. And it meant that Mikey and I got to catch up while I picked his brain about his dual artistic pursuits.



"I learned to sew at the age of eight, so creating fashion designs is something that I have always loved doing," says Sin.

"As I got older, it became something I did in order to have something unique to wear."

When he began getting requests from friends, Sin mulled starting a business. *"Currently the label falls under my own name. But there is a specific name for the label that will launch with an online boutique in early 2018. Right now you can find some of my designs on my esty shop at [etsy.com/shop/mikeysin](https://www.etsy.com/shop/mikeysin)."*

MIKEY SIN STUDIOS

Model : Jacklyne Hyde
Location : The Black Eagle



The work is labour intensive so the pieces are often one-of-a-kinds. *"I use old school techniques like hand beading and applying sequins one by one,"* says Sin. *"The new and current designs are a mix between hand-printed silk screen images on shirts and fabric, and costume showpiece head pieces. I use conventional and unconventional materials including paper for the stage pieces. For the silk screen designs, I often use photographs that I have taken, images that are manipulated from pop culture, or just whatever is inspiring me at the moment."*



MIKEY SIN STUDIOS

Head Piece Designed by Mikey Sin
Model : Leon Ciroc McDonald



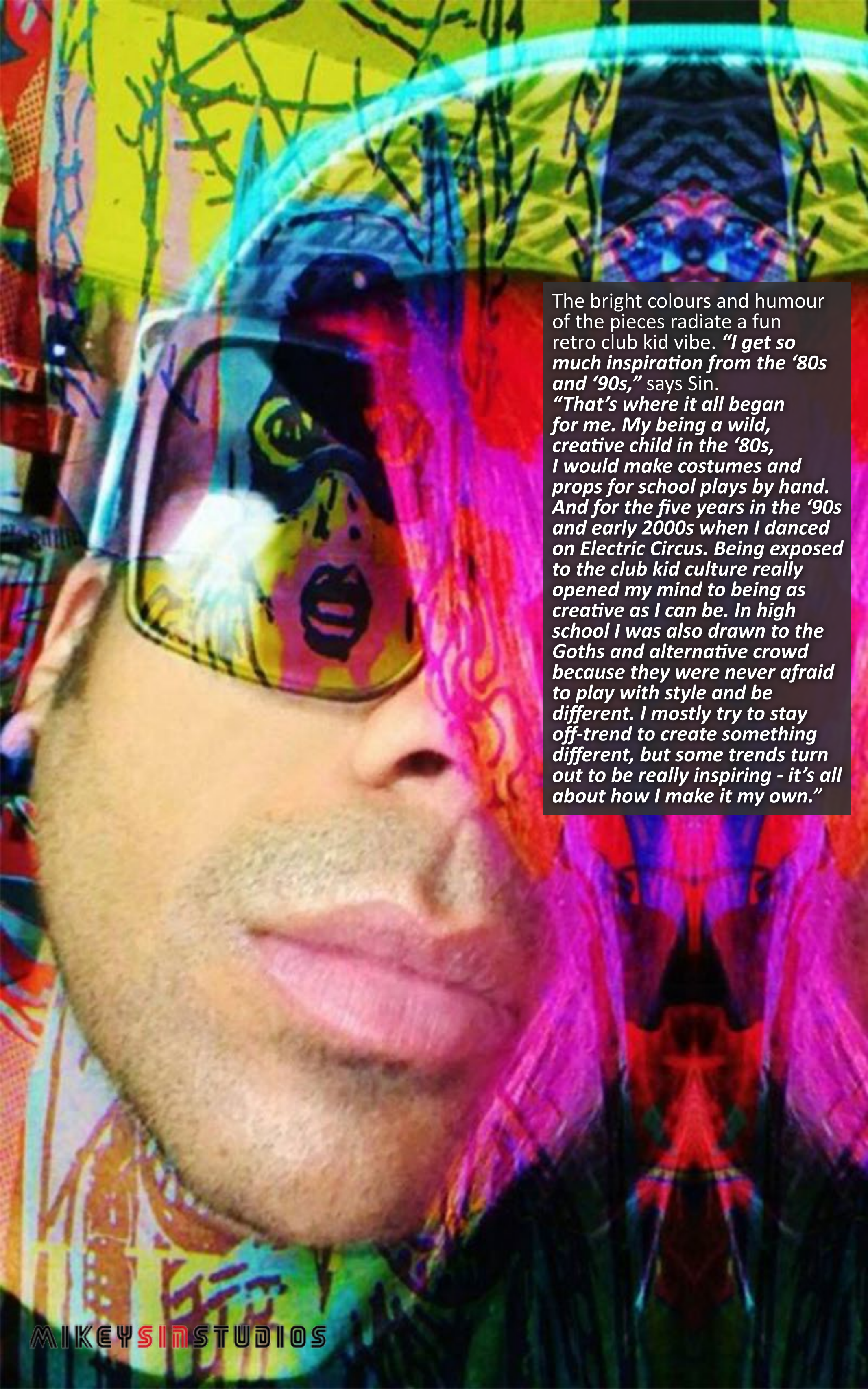
MIKEY SIN STUDIOS

Shirt Designed by Mikey Sin
Model : Jackson Deschamps



MIKEY SIN STUDIOS

Head Piece Designed by Mikey Sin
Model : Jacklyne Hyde



The bright colours and humour of the pieces radiate a fun retro club kid vibe. *"I get so much inspiration from the '80s and '90s,"* says Sin. *"That's where it all began for me. My being a wild, creative child in the '80s, I would make costumes and props for school plays by hand. And for the five years in the '90s and early 2000s when I danced on Electric Circus. Being exposed to the club kid culture really opened my mind to being as creative as I can be. In high school I was also drawn to the Goths and alternative crowd because they were never afraid to play with style and be different. I mostly try to stay off-trend to create something different, but some trends turn out to be really inspiring - it's all about how I make it my own."*

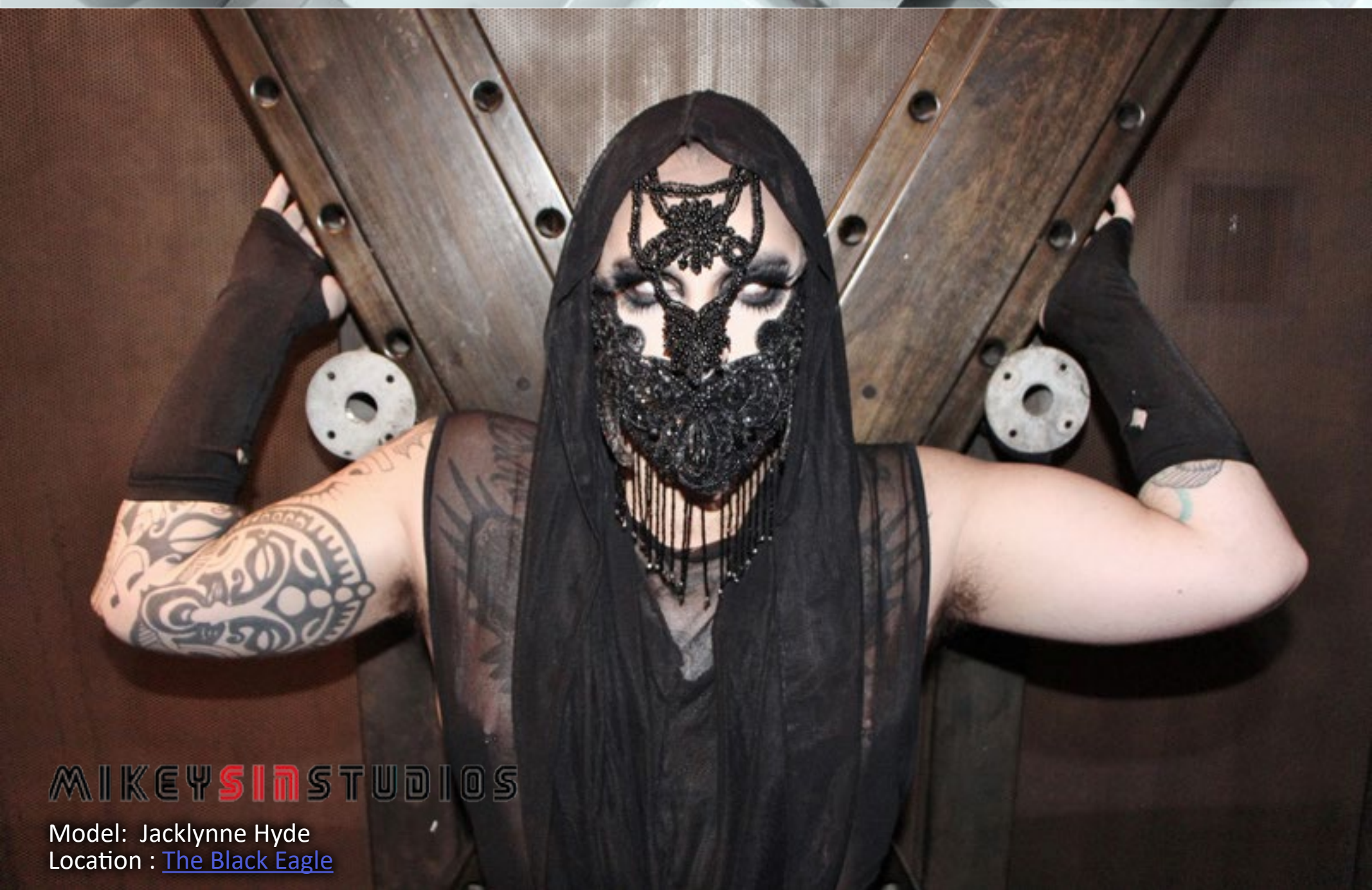


MIKEY SIN STUDIOS

Shirt Designed by Mikey Sin
Make Up by Amy Pigeon - [cru6 beauty](http://cru6beauty.com)



Inspiration MGT photo spread also came from a variety of sources. *“The photos are based on the designs I created, locations in the city I love, and a bit of Halloween which is my all time favourite holiday. I was really trying to step outside my comfort zone. When I am planning a new shoot I always ask: what can I do that I haven’t before? Push my limits further? It’s like water, always moving, creating new shapes, never staying the same. I am very hands on when putting a photoshoot together, I do the producing, creative directing, location scouting, pull the wardrobe together... It can be very exhausting, so by the time the actual shoot arrives, I feed off of everyone’s energy on set to give me that extra boost to get through the day. Everyone involved plays a part in the final product, it’s a team effort.”*



MIKEY **SIN** STUDIOS

Model: Jacklyne Hyde
Location : [The Black Eagle](#)

The team effort also extends to the models. ***"I always use the personalities of the models that I chose,"*** says Sin. ***"I always love using some of my favourite people, they really trust what I am doing, believe in my ideas, and really know how to embody the character with an infusion of who they really are. When there are new models I haven't worked with before, it can sometimes be tricky in the beginning, but I make the shoots really comfortable and fun, and try to get to know them a bit before working together. The best is when I find new models to add to the favourites that I have been photographing for years."***

Models : ILL NANA
[DiverseCity Dance Company](#)

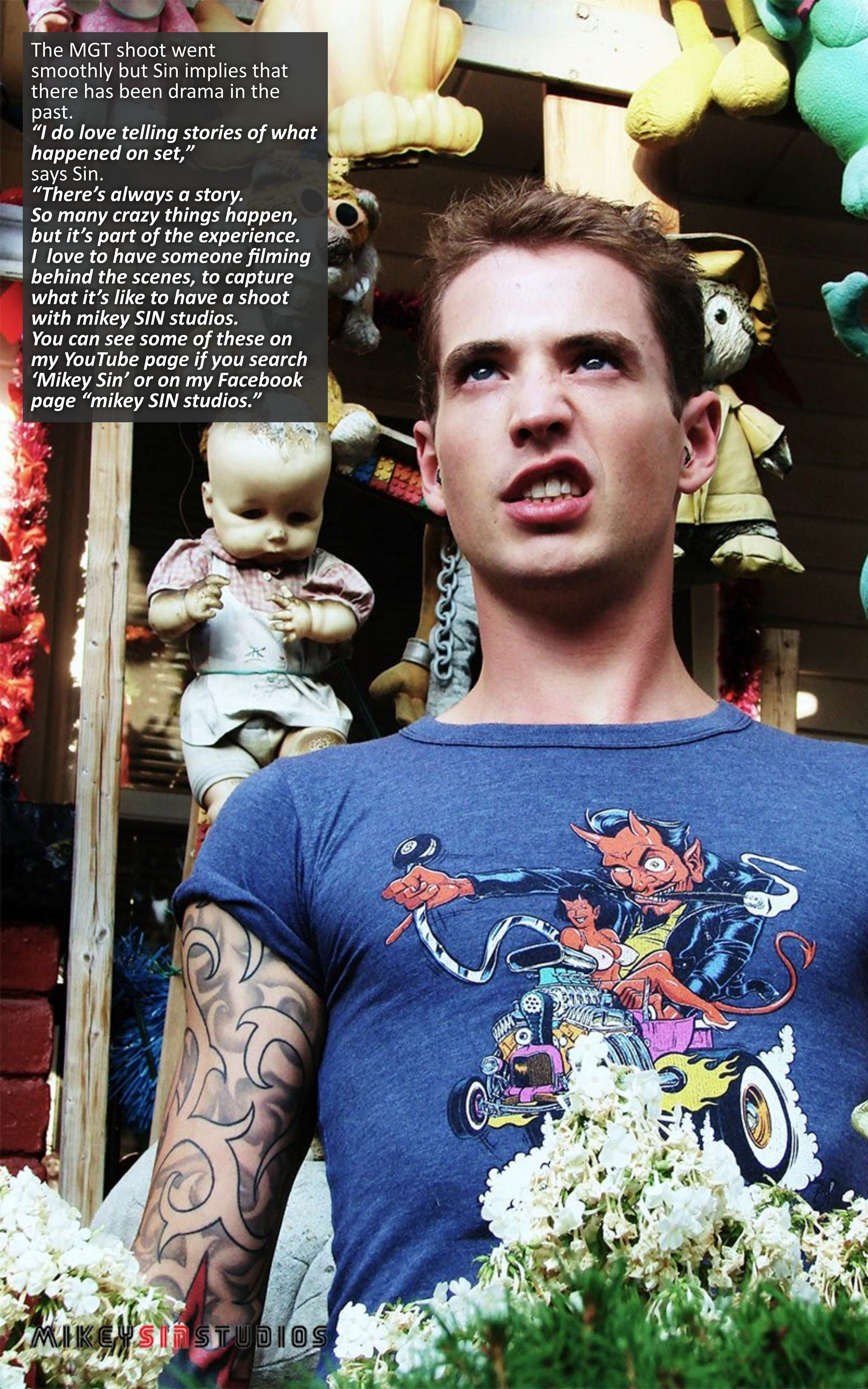


MIKEY **SIN** STUDIOS

The MGT shoot went smoothly but Sin implies that there has been drama in the past.

"I do love telling stories of what happened on set," says Sin.

"There's always a story. So many crazy things happen, but it's part of the experience. I love to have someone filming behind the scenes, to capture what it's like to have a shoot with mikey SIN studios. You can see some of these on my YouTube page if you search 'Mikey Sin' or on my Facebook page 'mikey SIN studios.'"





MIKEY **SIN** STUDIOS

Head and Neck Piece Designed by Mikey Sin
Model Jelani – ILL Nana
[DiverseCity Dance Company](http://DiverseCityDanceCompany.com)

Sin also does commercial work and even weddings. The trick is meshing his own distinctive vision with the client's demands. *"Having found my own style, it actually helps me get clients,"* he says.

"What really draws them in, is my love for color. And I love to make the shoots fun, easy and memorable. I love my photos to speak for themselves. Whether they get it right way or have to look at it a few times to understand it."



MIKEY SIN STUDIOS

Shirt Designed by Mikey Sin
Model Tibor
Make Up by Elizabeth Carey



MIKEY SIN STUDIOS

Model : Chrystal Conners
www.chrystalconners.com


The MGT shoot finished, what challenge does Mikey Sin now hope for? ***“My ultimate or fantasy shoot or fashion design is whatever I create next,”*** he says. ***“And then whatever comes next after that. And so on. As long as I am able to be creative and creating. It really all comes down to the love of doing it. And the feeling that it gives me, it’s magical.”***

More of Mikey Sin’s work can be found at mikeysin.com



MIKEY SIN STUDIOS

Shirt Designed by Mikey Sin
Make Up by Amy Pigeon – [cru6 beauty](http://cru6beauty.com)



I would really like to thank and send love to Ill Nana DiverseCity Dance Company, KD, Jacklynne Hyde, The Black Eagle, The 519, Aldo Parise, Crystal Conners, Amy Pigeon, Kaleb Takacs, Leon McDonald, Elizabeth Carey, Mermaid Michaels, the crew at MGT and everyone who appears and helped out in creating these magical photos.

Mikey Sin

MIKEY SIN STUDIOS

Make Up by Elizabeth Carey
Hair by Mikah Styles



MIKEY SIN STUDIOS

Neck Piece Designed by Mikey Sin
Model : Romone Thomas

the
village

CHURCH-WELLESLEY

Halloween

PRESENTS
on Church

The Church Wellesley Village is thrilled to present 'Halloween on Church Street 2017.' Watch as The Village transforms into the city's most wicked street party on Halloween night, Tuesday October 31st.

The pedestrian-only boulevard opens up at 6:30PM and, almost instantly, the wave of Halloween-dressed revelers begins. Expect thousands of people filling up six blocks along Church Street (Wood Street to Gloucester Street).

Grab your friends, grab your costume and grab a spot in the action. The Village's shops, cafés and bars will be bumping all night long. Check out The Village's calendar for the various special events happening in each local haunt.

CIUT 89.5 FM will be pumping out the tunes north of Wellesley, with special guest DJs.

Be tricked by the unbelievable characters. Be treated to the next-level costumes. Halloween on Church promises to be one scary good time! Plus, it's all FREE. ul than Bad Moms or Rough Night.

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Size does matter: New York's NewFest versus Toronto's Inside Out

RAYMOND HELKIO



NewFest
**New York's
 LGBT Film Festival**

October 19th-24th, 2017

Over 100 films, panels, and parties that shine a light on the LGBT experience.

PRESENTED BY:
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New York's LGBT Film Festival (NewFest) is celebrating 29 years of queer programming with this year's festival showcasing 140 films over six days. Considered a go-to for film distributors, the festival continues to be a launching pad for many looking to break into the industry and with sponsors such as HBO, ShowTime and NBC it's no wonder they are so revered. But how does Toronto's Inside Out LGBT Film Festival stack up? Inside Out is currently accepting submissions which means their 2018 line-up has yet to be announced but based on recent years we can expect 200+ films over an impressive 11 days, bigger than NYC on both counts.

While Toronto has enjoyed many celebrities like controversial filmmaker and DJ, Bruce La Bruce who in 2015 had already achieved a retrospective of his work at New York's Museum of Modern Art, New York just has way more celebrities living there so it's no comparison. It's not uncommon to be watching a film at NewFest and find you're sitting next to a big name star. For this year's centrepiece, NewFest brings Alan Cumming to the screen in *After Louie*, the story of an artist and activist from ACT UP who lived through the early years of the HIV epidemic and struggles with survivor's guilt. The opening night for *Suzanne Bartsch: On Top* features RuPaul, Micheal Musto and Amanda Lepore. While Toronto may not have the same concentration of people (or celebrities), our festival attracts close to 35,000 people who'll watch films, go to parties, attend artist talks and panel discussions, and by sheer numbers our impact puts us on par with the big players.



Photo: God's Own Country, NewFest 2017



God's Own Country
INTERNATIONAL CENTERPIECE

The ULCC model comes to Canada with Flair and Canadian Jetlines

DREW ROWSOME



As the winter weather approaches, my daydreams start to drift towards escape. And heat. A Caribbean beach with waves lapping at my feet. An Orlando theme park. A weekend in Vegas with a sidetrip to the haunted Clown Motel. Acquiring an all-over tan in Palm Springs. Romping with the bears in Puerto Vallarta. Helping celebrate Miami being spared Irma's wrath, or finally making the pilgrimage to Gibsonton and Sarasota. And there are hundreds of other exotic and quixotic locales eager to be explored and savoured.

Part of the joy of a vacation south is the implied remoteness gifted by air travel. Great distance has been covered so one's troubles, and the snow, are far away and definitively out of mind. I've never been a nervous flyer despite one incident about to land in Newark and the landing gear wheels malfunctioned, much to the horror of the white-knuckled Air Egypt flight attendant seated beside me. If not for her terror and inside information, I would never have known, and would have just been frustrated at endlessly circling the wastelands of New Jersey before a noticeably bumpy touchdown.

And I flew once surrounded by the ear-splitting roar of a cropduster held together by duct tape as it struggled to lift off from the dirt runway of a third world airport. After all flying is much safer than driving, it's just the optics of being unnaturally in the air that triggers unreasonable fears. I brave the TTC at rush hour daily, I've driven as the Gardiner crumbled beneath me, so I'd like to think that I would be a Karen Black in an air emergency.

Flights are usually just an inconvenience that has to be undertaken as a means of achieving one's destination (I exclude from that the once-in-a-lifetime first class flight to Dusseldorf on Lufthansa. No beach, but I would happily spend an entire week's vacation in that luxurious cocoon). And as we all like a bargain, or to spend as little as possible, the news that two new ULCCs (ultra-low-cost carriers) are ramping up operations in the next few months.

Canadian Jetlines is the most ambitious. Based out of the John C. Munro Hamilton International Airport and the Region of Waterloo International Airport, they intend to initially offer flights to Vancouver, Edmonton, Calgary, Winnipeg and Halifax. After a 90 day trial period for Transport Canada and the Canadian Transportation Agency, they plan to add St John's, Las Vegas and Orlando, followed six months later by Fort Myers, Tampa, Fort Lauderdale and Cancun.

The key words are "low cost" and the company CEO, Stan Gadek, pumped up the rhetoric at a press conference announcing Canadian Jetlines "rebellion" against high fares, "We're asking everyone to join us in that rebellion, to change the way that Canadians fly in this country." Noting that "Price is our product," he said that basic fares will cost about the same as a pair of jeans before backtracking slightly, "Jeans come in all sizes and styles and all prices, but these are going to be very affordable jeans."

The immediate competition is Flair Airlines who have a built-in advantage in a great moniker. The western Canada-based Flair



currently flies between Abbotsford, Edmonton, Halifax, Hamilton and Winnipeg, with Vancouver and Toronto next on the list. They are aiming to be the lowest cost carrier between Toronto and Vancouver. And of course there will be more competition, Westjet has already announced plans for an ULCC division and Air Canada is mulling retooling its Rouge division in rebuttal.

I'm all for low fares, travel is prohibitively expensive for most of us, but there is a downside to the ULCC model that should be considered. Low ticket prices have to be compensated for and right on the Canadian Jetlines website they state that they will "deploy strategies for maximizing ancillary revenue by selling additional services, such as in-flight food and baggage, to customers." Of course that process is already well underway across the industry, but there is that old adage "you get what you pay for."

In the mid-'80s I flew to New York on what was the prototype for the ULCC model. The airline was based out of the southern US and was run by an eccentric braggart millionaire (not Trump) who loudly announced that he was revolutionizing the airline industry. The flight from Buffalo to New York were dirt cheap but there were caveats: all baggage had to be handled by oneself, seating was first come first served, there was no in-flight entertainment or food or drink service of any sort, and the glamour that air travel once espoused was nowhere in evidence. It was not shabby chic or minimalist, it was threadbare and dirty.

The cost cutting measures also extended to the staff (always a concern as that is where corporations always first try to cut corners: lower salaries and benefits mean less overhead). The pilot was not in evidence beyond a surly disembodied voice with a thick southern drawl, and the flight attendants were charm school, and beauty school, drop-outs. Years before the drama of people being bumped off flights due to overbooking, this airline made it an artform. The morning flight I had a ticket for was overbooked, so we were



offered a free ticket to anywhere the airline flew, if we took the mid-morning flight instead. I instantly agreed.

When the mid-morning flight was overbooked I earned another free ticket by agreeing to suffer the Buffalo airport for another couple of hours. The noon flight boarded, stayed on the tarmac for a few hours due to mechanical issues and then was cancelled, no recompense for that. I didn't get to New York until late in the evening. A one-hour flight had taken all day. And I never used the free tickets. The flight was so hellish and uncomfortable that I - even though financially strapped at the time and quite inured to extended periods without comforts beyond the basics - from then on sprung for the Air Canada flights from, in pre-Porter days, the Toronto Island airport.

That airline went bankrupt shortly after that, leaving absolutely no-one stranded. Being the least expensive did not compensate for being sub-standard. While air travel has morphed from glamorous to utilitarian to apparently bargain basement, it is still important to be able to enjoy the travel as well as the destination. The race to dominate the skies is not necessarily compatible with a race to the bottom of the barrel. That being said, I will undoubtedly book my next flight with price being one of the top deciding factors. And if that means another ULCC experience, I am going to fervently believe that the Canadian version will be appropriately superior.



Halloween's haunted manners

ALEX MATVEEVA



It's that time of the year again! Halloween, aka gay Christmas. This yearly tradition of adults dressing up, partying and overpay for cover originated on the streets of none other than San Francisco's Castro neighborhood in the 1970s, where drag queens would openly enter Halloween costume contests and theatrically dressed adults would throng to the street festival. It then spread to other gay neighborhoods all over North America. It wasn't long before Toronto started celebrating as well.

How does Toronto actually celebrate this Gay High Holy Day? By having an awesome street party of course! Every Halloween, Church Street closes for pedestrian traffic only, and from 6:30pm to 2am, it is costumes galore. Street partygoers go all out and some have super elaborate costumes. Others have cute couple's costumes and you might even see coordinated group costumes. But before you head down to watch or participate in the festivities, there are a few ground rules:

It's OK to stare at the amazing costumes!

Some of the people who dressed up for the occasion have spent months preparing their outfits and putting it all together. So please go ahead and stare and take pictures. You are certain to come out with some awesome pictures that are Instagram-worthy. To be on the safe side, however, please remember to be polite and ask if it's ok to take a picture. Don't get offended if they run off or ask not to be photographed; it's their costume and their body, so please respect their privacy.

Watch where you're stepping

Our chosen gay family is really important to

us in the community, but we often forget to include our furry family in that definition. As you will find out for yourself, owners love bringing their pets to this party; it's one of the few times when they can bring their dogs to the festivities. At night and on a busy street, it's easy to miss the cute little furry creatures, so please be mindful of where you are stepping.

Don't slut shame

So many of us have to dress a certain way for work, family functions and sometimes even when traveling. Dressing up the way you want to dress up is sometimes a novelty. So you have to keep that in mind, Halloween is also a time when party-goers might feel a little adventurous with their outfits. But more importantly, slut shaming isn't cool on any day of the year including Halloween!

Don't get trashed

No matter what day of the week Halloween falls on, it's always a party! That means there's booze involved and while having a drink or three may make the festivities even better, some of the fun might get lost on you if you're heaving over a trash can with a stranger holding your hair. So please drink responsibly.

Don't half-ass your costume

If you tape a nickel to the back of your jacket, it does not make for an awesome Nickelback costume. There are a lot of people who put a lot of time and effort into their outfit, so while the last minute sexy kitten costume is perfectly acceptable, don't try to put a



Halloween costume with household items five minutes before you have to leave for the party. Plan in advance if you want to dress up, and you totally should!

Do Dress Up

Halloween means costumes and it's fun to dress up! It's the one day during the year that you can choose to be anything you want to be! It's awesome! Bonus points if you come up with a group costume! There's nothing more fun than making people's day by posing for people to take pictures with crayons set up as the colour of the rainbow. Plus you all have this unspoken bond going on between the whole group and it feels pretty cool.

Dress warm

While it's been an incredibly warm start to the month, the end of October is always cold. It's hard to sacrifice your outfit's glory for the warmth, especially if it's on the more provocative side, but you just have more fun if you're comfortable. It's best to remember this while choosing your costume. Some people wear really warm leggings underneath and it doesn't take away, while others incorporate their coat into the whole outfit, too.

Have a blast

It's important to remember that not so long ago in the '70s and the '80s, straight Torontonians would line up on Yonge Street to throw eggs at the gay community, who were only trying to go out on Halloween. We have come such a long way from that time. And the best way to celebrate is to go out and have a great time! Meet up with your friends and just hang! Participate if you can and most importantly, be proud!



Toronto After Dark Film Festival

HORROR, SCI-FI, CAMP AND BUCKETS OF GORE - DREW ROWSOME



October climaxes with Halloween and part of the delicious foreplay is the Toronto After Dark Film Festival. Horror, sci-fi, action and cult films unspool over nine nights with many Toronto premieres and some tasty experiences that will never pass this way again.

The opening night gala is the controversial but apparently riveting *My Friend Dahmer*. Jeffrey Dahmer's finale and final meal is familiar to most but *My Friend Dahmer* concentrates on his youth and how he learned to cook. The subject matter is not without sensational elements but the filmmakers upped the ante by casting mini-hunk and former Disney Channel starlet Ross Lynch, as the sexual cannibal in training. With lovable loon Anne Heche as his mother and a heavily '70s set design, *My Friend Dahmer* is at worst a creepy camp curiosity and at best, judging from the reviews, a work of art.

Aside from whatever suspense the film generates, it will be a nail-biter to see if Lynch can, like Zac Efron and Garrett Clayton attempted, transcend his roots in *Teen Beach Movie* and *Teen Beach 2* to become a serious thespian.

But the big news is a screening of *Cult of Chucky*. The *Chucky* series either, depending on one's tastes, derailed or achieved nirvana with *Seed of Chucky*: the *Chucky* film guest-starring John Waters, featuring the murder of Britney Spears, and introducing the gender variant - after most dolls have ambiguous at best genitals - child of Chucky and Tiffany in a riff on Glen or Glenda). "I think that movie is so fundamentally comedic and farcical. It's a farce. It's literally a farce," says writer-director Don Mancini. "I mean, slamming doors and all of that. And I think that turned a lot of people off, I guess. I'm sorry! But, as a gay guy, I love the fact that over the years, to the people who saw that movie as children, the character of Glen really meant something to them, and that's very cool."



Not Cult of Chucky. Though it can't help but be comedic - dolls that kill are inherently hilarious plus Chucky has a wisecracking way with a quip - Mancini promises that, "this is definitely the goriest of all of the movies." Cult of Chucky is only being released digitally so this is a rare opportunity to see it the way a horror movie is made to be seen: with a screaming and laughing crowd interacting with a big screen. And, if you dare, arrive early for the first screening and have your photo taken with Mancini and the original Chucky doll, both of whom will be in attendance.

Of course two highlights do not a festival make and there is also the swampy slasher epic Victor Crowley, "bloodthirsty, technologically advanced aliens" in Beyond Skyline, the '80s-themed zombie comedy Dead Shack, the vampire comedy Eat Local starring Doctor Who alumni, the impossible to describe Impossible Horror, and a Mexican wrestler El Monstruo in Lowlife. There is also Canadian talent with The Endless and Poor Agnes, plus shorts and events and many more films. Can't you already hear Chucky laughing with orgasmic delight?



The Toronto After Dark Film Festival runs from Thurs, Oct 12 to Fri, Oct 20 at the Scotiabank Theatre, 259 Richmond St W. torontoafterdark.com

My Friend Dahmer - Trailer - Serial Killer Horror Jeffrey Dahmer Ross Lynch (TADFF 2017)



Cult of Chucky - Trailer - Killer Doll Horror Brad Dourif Child's Play (TADFF 2017)





Guy Scheiman Mixes & Sets

guy scheiman

tel aviv, Israel

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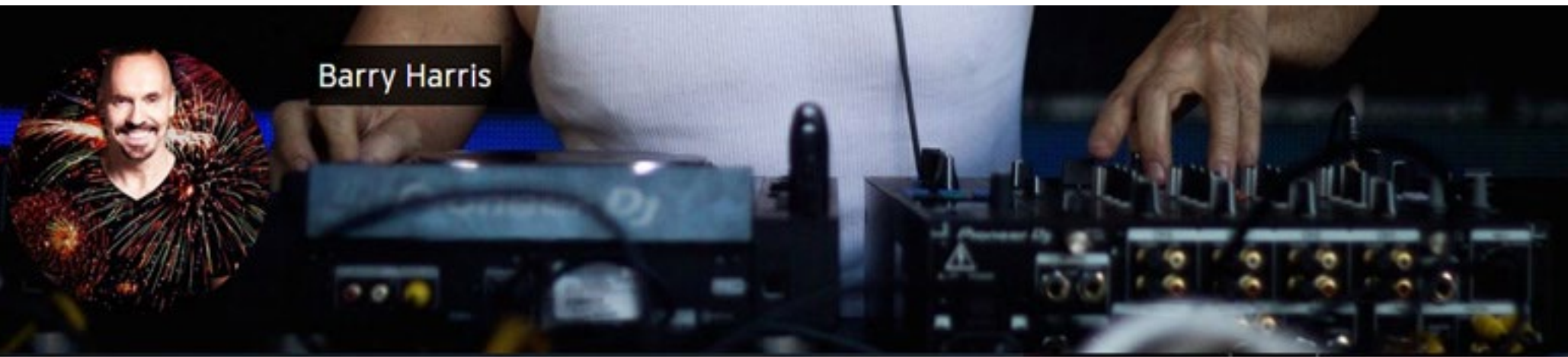


Guy Scheiman Mixes & Sets

Rosh Hashana - 2017 Mixed By Guy Scheiman

8 days

House



Barry Harris



DJ Barry Harris II

"Don't Call Me Baby" (Barry Harris 2017 Remix)

5 months

House



Abel Aguilera

Abel Aguilera

Miami, United States



Abel Aguilera

RESIST. MIAMI 2 TORONTO

4 months

Techno



g. elliot simpson

on the Transformation of photography and the ecstasy of art

DREW ROWSOME



G. ELLIOTT SIMPSON's book, "TRANSFORMATION" is now available! support Glad Day Bookshop in Toronto, or look for it in your favourite bookstore or online shop.

It has been just two months shy of the publication of G Elliott Simpson's provocative and stunning book of photography, *Transformation*. Pre-publication, I had a [long interview/conversation with Simpson about his photography and seemingly a million other pertinent diversions](#). Simpson is an old friend, co-worker and artist who has intriguing opinions, an insatiable curiosity, and a very nimble mind that synthesizes pop culture, politics and personal observations into the ideas that fuel his art.

Transformation is, according to publisher Bruno Gmunder, "Doing well," but Simpson shrugs, saying he won't speculate on sales until it's been a year and he's no longer "waiting on a royalty cheque and some numbers. And they haven't asked for a calendar yet." In the meantime he is receiving fan mail that is gratifyingly "positive," and prints at gelliotsimpson.com are selling at a rate that is, while not yet lucrative, exciting. "I look at *Transformation* as a test tube for what I'd like to do," says Simpson. "There's a wider scope to my work than latex and fetish, but a retrospective is what you get at the end of your career."

What Simpson wants to do next isn't quite clear. "The people in *Transformation* are posed in a blank room," says Simpson. "I'd like to put them in a whole world, in a context beyond sexual." From there he references tentacle porn, *The Gilmore Girls*, the visual splendour of *Bladerunner 2049*, *Fuzzberta & Friends*, HR Giger, transhumanism and Stephen King's *Dolores Claiborne*. I can't pretend to understand his vision beyond the gut feeling that these are photos that I really want to see. If we ever do get to see them: Simpson is on a, only partially self-imposed, break.

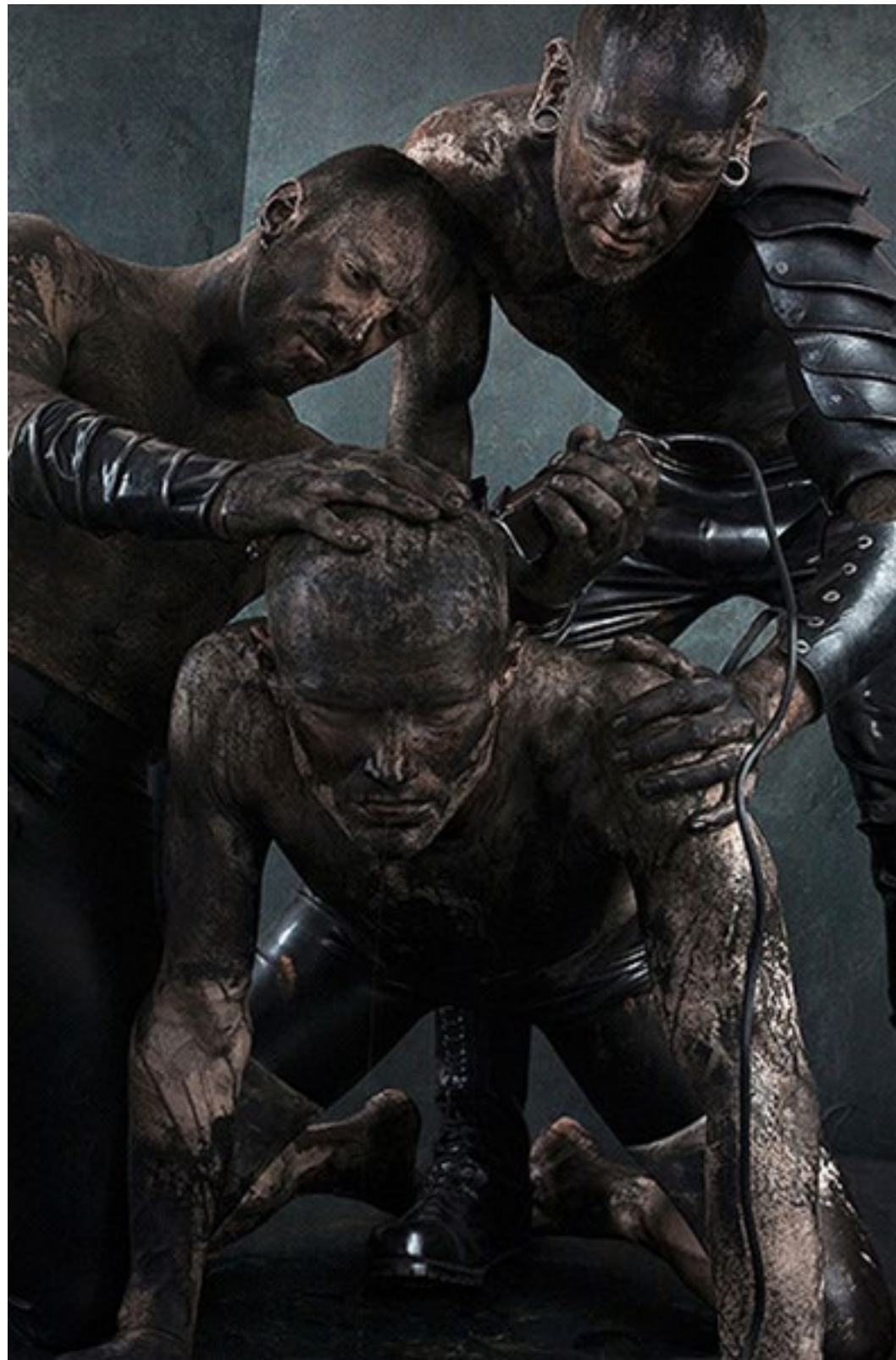
"I need a period of time to recoup," says Simpson. "Artists have a finite amount of energy," and the ideas need to gestate. And while he has been experimenting with models and mattes, he suspects, for now, the process is prohibitively expensive. Echoing many other photographers, he is not optimistic about current trends in photography. He cites sloppy photoshopping, amateur-looking photography that mimics social media snapshots, automation, and photographers that blatantly copy styles instead of using them as inspiration. "Everything's devalued by the internet," he says. "You have to not look at things, work in isolation." Simpson's photos come from a deep and occasionally dark place in his psyche and he notes that, "Asking me what kind of paint I use isn't going to help you achieve a specific meaning and feel."





Simpson is also a highly skilled commercial photographer for hire but, with so many aspiring photographers "willing to work for visibility," he has recently had offers that he turned down as "demeaning," including a suggestion from a publisher that he crowdfund another book. He is concerned that, like his successful career in graphic design, photography might be more enjoyable, and artistically fulfilling, as a hobby. To that end he is filling his current hiatus with life experience by studying social work where "at least I can see the good I am doing. And combat the numbing aspect of being constantly bombarded with media."











G. ELLIOTT SIMPSON's book, "TRANSFORMATION" is now available!
support Glad Day Bookshop in Toronto, or look for it in your favourite bookstore or online shop.



Simpson is battling the "temptation to look at the book as closure," as a final chapter in his photographic odyssey. "I never wanted to be famous," he says, "but I do want to work professionally and get paid." He pulls up the Fuzzberta & Friends Facebook page, which he admits he monitors obsessively, and marvels. "It's guinea pigs dressed in hats. She sells t-shirts and calendars and is raking in money. Who would buy a Transformation t-shirt? Maybe I should do the gay soft core porn on one side and kid's bedrooms as another." He laughs heartily. "I'd need another alias."

Transformation is available at Glad Day Bookshop, 499 Church St, and other fine bookstores or online.
gelliotsimpson.com



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Why Are So Many Young Gay Men on Drugs?

SKY GILBERT



Okay so I know that lots of young men - of all kinds - have been doing drugs for a long time; nothing new there. But it seems to me that there is a crystal meth epidemic among young gay men.

I know this because - now that I'm an old guy - young guys are always asking me to buy TINA for them.

It makes sense to me though, to be on drugs, if you are a young and gay. Because I can't imagine what it would be like to be a young gay man right now.

It seems to me that since bars and baths and parks and toilets and 'gay men's groups' are over for gay men, there's only two things left: online 'dating' apps and, well, gay marriage. (Of course I know that some young gay men do go to bars and bathhouses, but these places are generally thought of as being 'over'.)

Because if all we have is online sex and marriage what kind of future is that?

I know that SCRUFF and SURGE can be fun but it sure is tough to live up to the expectations of online dating apps: most people looking for sex/love or 'friends' online, don't like fats or fems.

Can I be frank here? Most of us are just a little bit fat and a little bit fem. Not if you're Arnold Schwarzenegger. Or Captain America.

But the rest of us; the ordinary guys, well, we're all a little pudgy here and there, and yes now and then our wrists go limp and we just wanna be petulant.

Of course if the pressure of living up to the porn star ab standard and the Sly Stallone masculinity standard doesn't send you to crystal meth, then the pressure to get married will. We, as men (gay or straight) are socialized to capitalize on what our testosterone tries to tell us: that we must compete, and fight, and conquer and win. Unlike women, we are not socialized to be loving and caring; we are socialized to achieve. Good luck having a gay monogamous marriage! Monogamous marriage doesn't work for most straights; I can't see why it would work for gay men.

I certainly don't long for the good old days. But back before AIDS there were not only gay bars but people were beginning to think that maybe there might be other gay social gathering places, and there was a sense of the possibility of meeting new people in a gay community that actually existed, in the real world. Gay coupling didn't mean monogamy; and being a bit femmy was still part of being gay.

I know we've got the new Will and Grace and RuPaul's Drag Race to remind us of the old days - the days when everyone gay didn't have to be perfectly masculine, built and/or perfectly married. But are those two shows enough to make us happy, healthy gay men?

Did you know?

The Sacred Band of Thebes was a troop of select soldiers, consisting of 150 pairs of male lovers which formed the elite force of the Theban army in the 4th century BC. Its predominance began with its crucial role in the Battle of Leuctra in 371 BC. It was annihilated by Philip II of Macedon in the Battle of Chaeronea in 338 BC.



Among the most prominent homosexual personality was the king of the most organized kingdom in east Africa, King Mwanga II of Buganda Kingdom, whose borders fall within modern day Uganda.

King Mwanga II, who reigned from 1884 to 1888, was widely reported to have engaged in sexual relations with his male subjects. Notably, Uganda didn't become a protectorate of Britain until 1894.





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North by Northwest: a giddy delirious thriller

DREW ROWSOME ★★★★★

Photos by Nobby Clark



Beloved films, especially musicals, are frequently adapted for the stage. It's only fair, original stage plays have been the source material for films since cinema began. Sometimes recreations in a vastly different medium reveal unique nuances, sometimes they settle for nostalgia, and sometimes, like *North by Northwest*, they are just so much damn fun that they are irresistible.



Alfred Hitchcock's film is a revered classic that most people will have at least a passing familiarity with. It is also full of the film director's renowned close-ups, editing and calculated mise en scene, all tricky things to recreate on stage. Director Simon Phillips (*Priscilla, Queen of the Desert: The Musical*) and playwright Carolyn Burns solve the dilemma inventively with a combination of the charmingly handmade and hi-tech gadgetry. The audience not only gets to gasp as the famous crop-duster scene actually comes to life, they also get to marvel at the way it is created.

It is wildly entertaining but at first feels like theatrical grandstanding without purpose until the second act when, already enmeshed in the convoluted plot and suspenseful action, the props and cast dive headfirst



(pun intended) into blissful camp in the style of the master Charles Ludlam. *North by Northwest* delivers a faithful recreation of a beloved film but also comments on an outrageous and dizzying number of ideas. Sex roles, xenophobia, even a glancing but pointed gay reference, and most delightfully, the artifice of celebrity are all sent up. The show begins with a comic parody of the credits wherein the cast declares themselves "A Cast of Thousands." All but the two leads play multiple roles and they do so with glee, a wink, and most crucially robotic choreography - after all Hitchcock referred to actors as "cattle" - when playing extras, causing the audience to consider the fate of all the talents that weren't blessed with the looks and luck of a Cary Grant or an Eva Marie Saint.





And the cast of thousands is seamless. Tom Davey looms enticingly, Abigail McKern dithers deliciously and makes more instantaneous costume changes than seems humanly possible, and everyone slides from thespian to prop master to prop with smooth abandon. The clockwork precision would undoubtedly amuse Sir Alfred, it certainly amused an audience gasping in continual delight.

Olivia Fines as the femme fatale Eve is a delight. She snaps out lines in a kewpie doll/Betty Boop voice, uses her impossibly sculpted legs for stiletto punctuation, and simultaneously evokes an iconic Hitchcockian icy-blonde while also sending it up with hilarious results. Ludlam would be proud. And envious. Jonathan Watton (XX, Murdoch Mysteries, Closet Monster) faces the daunting prospect of evoking Cary Grant's seemingly effortless charm. Watton is suave, exceedingly handsome, adds a loose-limbed athletic grace to the role and has a deft way with double-takes. He winks at the audience and, like the production, ignores the fourth wall in order to draw us in while staying absolutely, rigorously faithful to the barrier they have just broken. And he and Fines have a chemistry that sizzles.

Ian McDonald's adaptation/rearrangement emphasizes the beats, there is one comedic jump scare, and the way a great score gives emotional cues and amplifies heightened states is, again, simultaneously celebrated and gently mocked.

The two who benefit most from North by Northwest, are, alas, no longer with us. While Hitchcock is known for his visual skill, we often forget just how witty the screenplays and dialogue is in his films. Ernest Lehman's original repartee gets a spotlight thanks to the theatre's focus on words. The lines are snappy, funny, and camp all at once - revered for being the source of so much and gently mocked for the same reason. The theatrical setting also brings Bernard Herrmann's powerful score to the forefront.



The Bone Mother: David Demchuk creates a magical horrific world

DREW ROWSOME ★★★★★



The ChiZine imprint and several rave reviews were enough to make me pick up a copy of David Demchuk's *The Bone Mother*. It joined the shelf of books that I planned to get to as soon as possible. And then it was longlisted for the Giller Prize, the first horror novel ever to receive that honour. *The Bone Mother* moved to front of the shelf and I dove in. And I'm very glad I did.

The Bone Mother is not so much a horror novel as it is a mood piece, the creation of an entire and very unsettling world. The book consists of numerous short sections that are self-contained but that echo evocatively. They are mostly styled as folk tales or fairy tales but with matter-of-fact supernatural elements that are eerily effective at sliding under one's skin. The setting is unnamed though Prague and other Eastern European cities are mentioned. And many of the legends are based on classic Eastern European figures like strigoi (vampires), the rusalka (water spirits), a golem, and the titular witch in the woods.

Time moves forwards and back, emphasizing the permanence of evil and the crush of fate but the three villages live in a perpetual period of war and domination. There are family curses, foundlings and doomed

couplings in a world of such horror. That the world seems so real, and that it has many direct parallels to our contemporary existence, gives *The Bone Mother* a heft and verisimilitude that adds to the enticing dread it creates.



The first section details the marriage of two brothers and throughout Demchuk weaves same-sex attraction into a genre that is usually emphatic about heterosexual happy endings. Not that anyone gets to be happy in the end, except possibly a pair of lesbians, one of whom carries a parasitical monster and the other who is fascinated by monsters.

Similarly the sections do not assign right or wrong, some sections are told from the point of view of the human victims, some by the persecuted otherworldly creatures. Most of the sections, even the ones set in a contemporary time, have a flavour of nazi Germany or Stalinist Russia making the comparisons to pink triangles and yellow stars unmistakable.

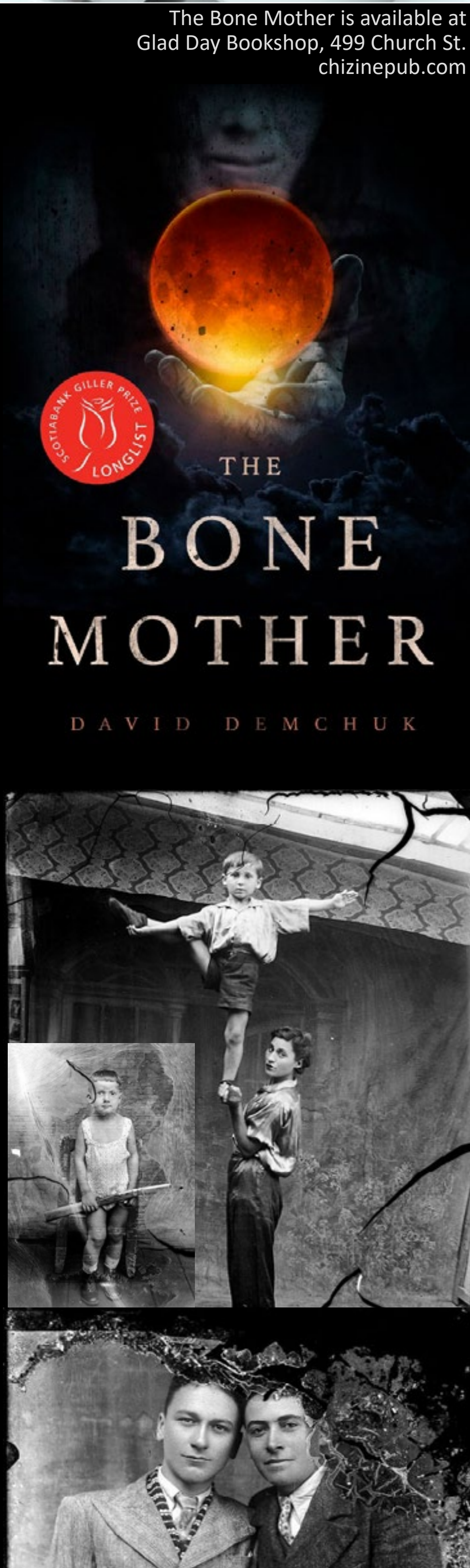
Many of the stories reference a thimble factory, bone china is after all made from ground bones, where terrible secret things have, and are, happening. Though we learn the history of the thimble factory and some of its horrors, it never becomes the connecting narrative device it appears intended to be.

The ending of *The Bone Mother* is as enigmatic and open-ended as some of the sections, though Demchuk does indict us in our own horrors and asks, as does the book, are we the haunted or the haunters?

While no resolution, *The Bone Mother* is deeply disturbing and oddly cathartic if it is possible for catharsis to leave one with lingering nightmares.

The Bone Mother is peppered, in the style of Ransom Riggs' *Miss Peregrine* trilogy but to much different effect, with vintage photographs that purport to be portraits of the characters. The photos are taken from the archives of Romanian photographer Costica Acsinte who recorded Romanian life through the world wars and a little beyond. His catalogue of film negatives on glass plates was deteriorating and feared irreparably damaged but is now in the process of being digitized.

They are haunting and mysterious, speaking of a reality that is almost lost, broken and obscured, vaguely remembered and deeply feared. Just like folk tales, freedom and *The Bone Mother*.



Humongous Halloween

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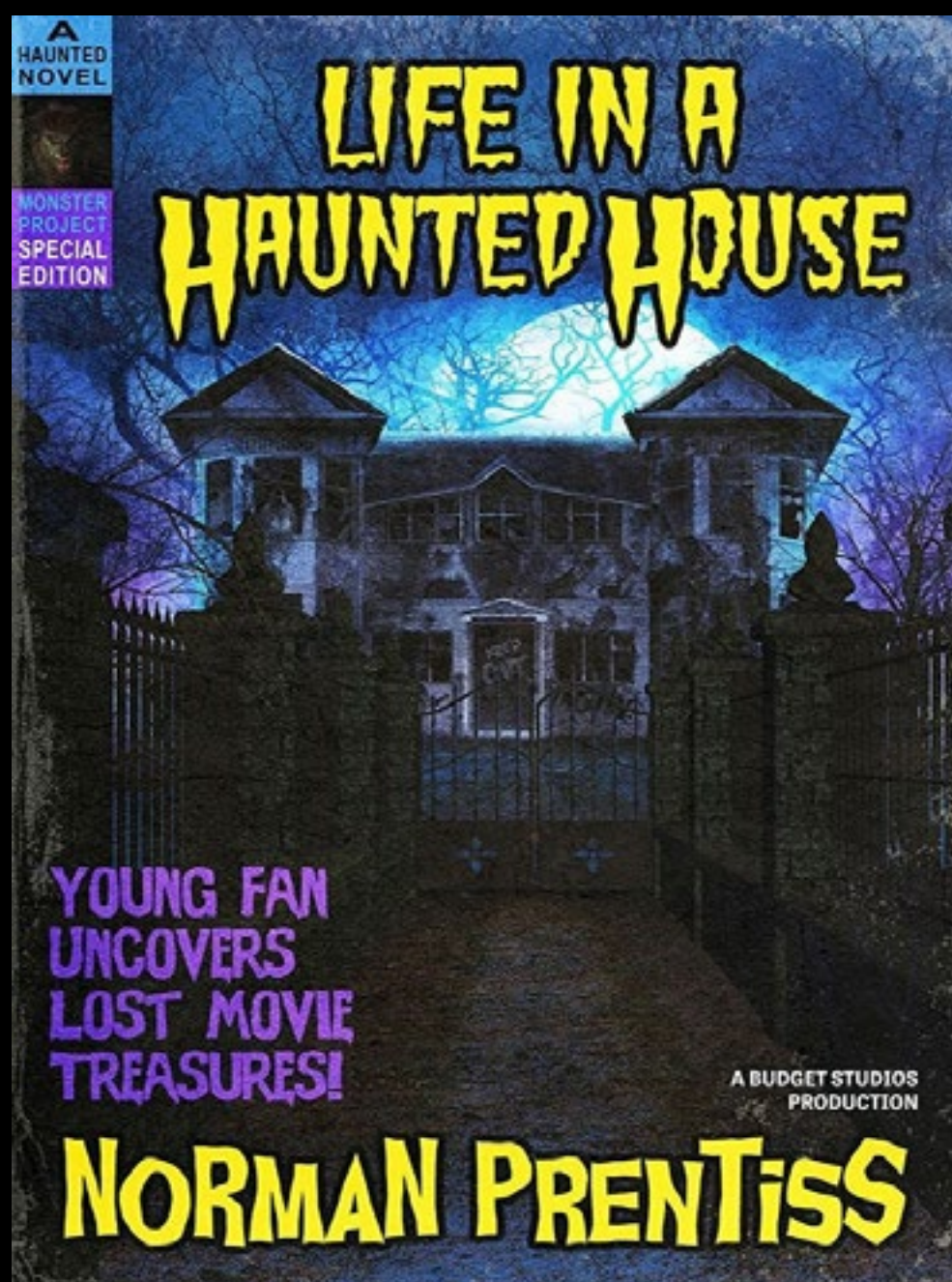


Life in a Haunted House

DREW ROWSOME ★★★★★

Being so enthralled with Norman Prentiss' *Odd Adventures with Your Other Father*, I immediately downloaded a previous work, *Life in a Haunted House*, and two of the three tie-in novellas. The concept is irresistible, combining a classic mysterious haunted house horror tale with the plotlines of a handful of (invented) low budget b-movies by a deservedly forgotten film director. *Life in a Haunted House* is above all a coming of age story so the horror is mainly conjured from the protagonist's mind, but Prentiss manages to get in a fair amount of suspense and scares through misdirection: reality and the events of the films, and the imagination of the protagonist/writer, have somewhat fused making the supernatural and the terrifying possible.

The skill with which this is done is considerable and one turns the pages alternately absorbed in the horror, and then chuckling at being fooled. And of course the horrors in the films leaking into real life are nothing compared to the horror of real life as the protagonist begins to solve the secrets of the haunted house. Prentiss obviously has an affection for old horror movies, particularly B-movies, and that love glows on the pages as scenes are recreated, described or viewed. Most delightfully he has a foreshadowing trick, echoing silent film intertitles, that works effectively while winking outrageously.



The basic plot is that Brandon who is a fan of Bud Preston, the producer/director of the oeuvre churned out by his Low Budget Productions. Brandon is a child of divorce who has just moved to a new town with his mother. The mother does not, did not, approve of such films as *The Dungeon of Count Verlock* or *The Twisted Face* but for Brandon and his father they were a bonding experience and almost an obsession. As Brandon adjusts badly to his new school, his misadventures are quite painful but the teenage angst reads accurately as his obsession grows. So it is a stroke of luck - or is it something more sinister? - that he discovers that one of his classmates is the daughter of the deceased Preston.

Not only the daughter but she also still lives in the house where many of the classics, at least they are classics in Brandon's mind, were filmed. He cultivates a relationship with the daughter even though she may have hopes other than being exploited so that Brandon can savour unfiled screenplays and covet old props. It is a complicated and painful relationship that evolves realistically and with a lot of tension.

And the tension ratchets as more of the house's secrets are revealed, Brandon begins to write a screenplay that is an amalgamation of Preston's scripts, Brandon's home and school life become more unbearable, and b-movie melodrama and the screenplay begin to bleed into real life.

The love of old horror movies and camp becomes clear in a twist ending even though it is revealed in a mere sentence. It is - SPOILER ALERT - that Brandon is gay. All of a sudden the entire book is seen through a different lens and one wants to go back and start from the beginning. Life in a Haunted House is great creepy fun and a solid coming of age story even if, in true B-movie fashion, it is not as scary or lurid as the cover art teases.

Tying in with Life in a Haunted House are three novellas that purport to be discovered novelizations of Bud Preston's greatest hits: The Dungeon of Count Verlock, The Lake Monster and The Space Visitor. The manuscripts were written for a pulp magazine entitled Monster Project but were never published. The conceit give Prentiss lots of room to indulge his love of pulp fiction and that peculiar language unique to books based on films. The Dungeon of Count Verlock is entertaining if barely coherent but then that is probably consistent with the imaginary film version. There are several dream sequences and, like a hallucinatory passage towards the end of Life in a Haunted House, it appears to be for less than artistic reasons and more for problem solving.

The Lake Monster is much better, a riff on The Creature From the Black Lagoon with comical sartorial descriptions that reference Life in a Haunted House. And, like a Twilight Zone episode or Saki short story, there is a surprise shock ending that is both obvious and delicious. The Lake Monster is pure campy fun that would be right at home in a trashy, the best kind, horror anthology. I will eventually get to reading The Space Visitor (the descriptions in Life in a Haunted House and Brandon's imagination are hysterical) but if Prentiss, I mean the mysterious scribe, had penned a version of Preston's opus starring a killer oak tree with predatory tentacle branches and an evil bark face, I would drop everything to read it.



Kawa Ada returns to the starlit world of Salt-Water Moon

DREW ROWSOME

“By the time we got to the last week of the first run, I was so heartbroken,” says Kawa Ada of playing Jacob in Salt-Water Moon. “The audience response was so supportive and lovely that we wanted to continue to share it. I’m very excited to do it again, to share it with an audience again.”

Factory Theatre’s production of Salt-Water Moon was such a hit that it was impossible to accommodate everyone who wanted to experience it. Fortunately Mirvish Productions stepped in and a remount is imminent at the larger Panasonic Theatre. Ada admits that he is “neurotic” when tackling a new project but when I talked to him before the first iteration of Salt-Water Moon, he was specifically hesitant about tackling an iconic Canadian classic. “I was very reticent at first,” he admits, “but when I said, ‘Yes,’ I was extremely nervous and scared about it but that’s a good thing because I like to take on projects that scare me half to death.”

Frightened but determined, Ada with the expert help of director Ravi Jain (Prince Hamlet, Gimme Shelter) dove in. “As we went through making this play, it envelopes you in this beautiful sentimental hug,” says Ada. “As cheesy as that may sound, you cannot help, if you are open to it and you just let the play into your heart, as an actor you can’t help but resonate with the love foundation that it is built on. So I just let go and gave over to it.”

His fears proved unfounded. “We as people of colour coming in to do this play, and no actors of colour have ever done this play, the concern being the reversal of appropriation. Of taking on something that I don’t necessarily have the right to,” he says. “But at the same time we always wanted to honour Canadian culture and Newfoundland culture which is of itself beautiful in its own heritage and make up. To make it as universal as possible, that the references are reverent, as it would be with two white actors with Newfoundland accents. What we discovered is that there is a universality in that, all cultures that come to Canada or are a part of Canada’s make-up have these relationships with war, class and divisions and trying to hang on to their heritage in the face of all that. And that’s what really came to the fore.”

Even in the times of Trump, great actors in a timeless script trump petty but ingrained divisions. “As much as it became irrelevant,” says Ada, he became aware of something more universal and disturbing. “The characters in this play are dealing with a major class system, up against class divisions. And that was a major parallel for me to access. In the last week of performances director Ravi Jain was able to say ‘Oh, this is finally coming along.’ And I went ‘I get it, his desperation.’ And before that I did not understand, or wasn’t fully able to engage with, or wasn’t able to manifest it in my performance. When it ended, I thought, that this is where I need to begin.”



Production photos by Joseph Michael Photography

While Ada's performance promises to be, if possible, deeper and more nuanced, the remarkable ambiance will not change. "It will be the sparse simple set and design we had last time. No falling chandelier. No helicopter coming down from the ceiling," says Ada laughing. "In early conversations with Ravi, he wanted it to be an ethereal non-descript place. In and among the stars even, so that it was people's imaginations that would fill in the blanks. In the end the last character that comes into the play is the audience. And if the audience responds it's magical. And that's what audiences have done."

The only technical change is a minor one. "Not only is the Panasonic not as intimate as Factory Theatre, but the configuration is very long," he explains. "We were very concerned about the distance from the balcony. So we have microphones. They will be as unobtrusive as possible, just enough to give us a boost so that we can be intimate but still be heard. We want to make sure the audience gets as intimate and as theatrical an experience as possible."

More from Kawa Ada at drewrowsome.blogspot.com

Salt-Water Moon runs Thurs, Oct 12 to Sun, Oct 29 at the Panasonic Theatre, 651 Yonge St. mirvish.com

THE **FACTORY** PRODUCTION OF
**SALT-WATER
 MOON**
 BY DAVID FRENCH
 DIRECTED BY RAVI JAIN



Pictured left to right: Kawa Ada and Mayya Nguyen. Photo by Joseph Michael Photography.



IT

BASED ON THE TERRIFYING NOVEL

BIL ANTONIOU ★★★★★

The children of Derry are finished school and ready for a fun summer, which is about to be ruined by a menace in their charming town: a scary clown named Pennywise (Bill Skarsgård, whose Swedish accent is never explained) is capturing and devouring children. Bill (Jaeden Lieberher) is obsessed with the disappearance of his little brother (which we see in a terrifying opening sequence) and convinces his three best friends to forego the fun of summer and accompany him to the town's creepiest locations for clues as to the boy's whereabouts.

Their voyage teams them up with a couple more loners and a girl surviving domestic sexual abuse on journey that exposes them to something way worse than the bullies who terrorize them at school in this endlessly entertaining and, at times, genuinely very scary adaptation of half of one of Stephen King's most popular novels.

The technological upgrade since the television miniseries of 1990 provides richer and deeper investigation of the story's more imaginative indulgences, while director Andy Muschietti keeps the film's healthy running time on track without ever letting the pace drag.

The film is too obviously inspired more by the success of the Netflix series *Stranger Things* than King's book, (with cast member Finn Wolfhard stolen as proof), but the excellent dialogue and more than a few good chills are enough to let it succeed on its own.

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FLASHBACK

Can I Get A Double Headed Dildo

SAMANTHA LAUZON

As most of my loyal readers will know, I've worked in various aspects of the sex industry for the better part of my adult life. I can now add "Sex Shop" worker to that list, officially cornering every aspect of the Sex Industry job market.

Here is a snap shot of my resume.

Escorting:

It's no big surprise that I've escorted; a good majority of Trans women have and will in their life. It's a way of making money in the confines of our own homes, which is a safe space for us, it's a place where some girls who aren't "passing" so well can shave, do their make-up, and feel secure about the whole transaction taking place because they aren't getting "clocked" i.e. outed by the general public.

It's also a great way to make money, as hormones aren't cheap and if you're not on some sort of public assistance, it certainly helps.

WebCam Model:

I get all dressed up in porn star makeup, heels, lingerie and I prance around on webcam for \$5.99 a minute. I've even installed a webcam setup in my shower for those "dirty" shows where I need a good cleaning afterwards.

I recently purchased a "co-star" for my shows: a 12-inch double-headed dildo. I've actually never played with plastic before, aside from Mastercard, Visa and American Express, but it's been something of a constant topic of conversation in my shows and as I aim to please (and make money) I picked one up for future use.

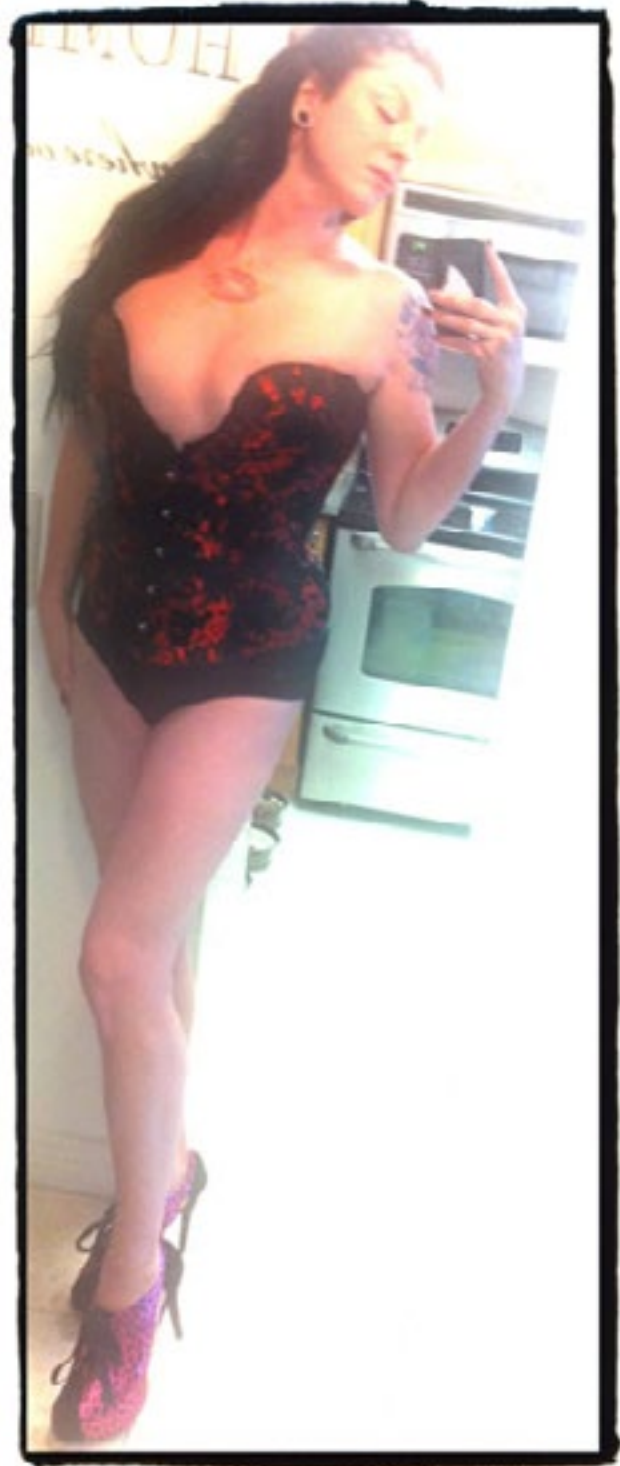
Stripper:

After several years of Escorting and webcam modeling, I was approached to strip at "The Lounge" in Mississauga, the birthplace of Tranny stripping in Toronto, where I danced for several years. Traveling from Hamilton to Toronto wasn't always easy but, thanks to Todd Klink, I made great money and was able to live a very comfortable lifestyle.

Phone Sex:

While washing my dishes I've been known to pick up the phone and turn into a seductive temptress.

"Uh huh, yeah baby that sounds hot... mmmmmm do it harder," I say. Little does the



guy know, I'm just talking to myself while trying to scrub some dried food off my dishes that I left in the sink over night without rinsing. It always surprises me that the guy on the other side of the line can't hear me doing the dishes, but maybe I'm so good at the phone sex voice that he just doesn't care.

As of last week I now work at one of the largest sex shops in the country. I'm selling everything from novelty penis shaped chocolates to pheromone-infused candles that actually turn into massage oil when heated. From the everyday sex toy plain-Jane dildo to the more wilder "Tantus" line of super fun and super enjoyable toys, from the "Naughty Nurse" to "Dr. Pussy" costumes, there's something for everyone.

Yesterday was my first day on the floor helping customers and I have to say it wasn't as hard as I thought it would be (no pun intended). It was easy for me to approach the customers and feel at home among the amazing family of workers in the store. You'd be surprised just how normal my coworkers are. Of course, we have our misfits, myself included, but really the group consists of a few lesbians, some straight girls, and a tranny. We are just like Old Navy but instead of selling shirts and shoes we sell dildos and lube.

Road to a Better Body

EMERY POSTE



When you go to see a club for the first time, chances are you are walked through the entire facility by the sales rep. While they are likely very thorough, your first day should be spent more exploring the equipment. If you have decided to go the route without a personal trainer, you should absolutely start with the machines.

The machines are designed to isolate each muscle group. As you explore, you will find that the devices will have a plaque or sticker showing a diagram of the body and what area(s) you are working with it will be shaded in or coloured. The marking will also contain the name or what area of the body the machine focuses on. After you have become familiar with the machine and its functions, test it out at a very light weight or no weight at all to experience its movement and how it feels in accordance to your body. Generally you will do 1 set of 10 of all the machines in one day for the first week, going to the gym 3 times and dividing them with rest days between each workout day. The following week you increase to 2 sets of 10 keeping the same work out days, and then the following week you will increase to 3 sets of ten, but changing your routine to 4 times a week, with a rest of at least one day between two workout days. The days that are together you will divide up the routine between upper body and lower body. Start light with the weights and test the resistance to the muscle. If it's comfortable, with medium resistance, than continue, but don't go heavy on the first days because the risk of serious pain is possible as you're taking these new muscles out for their first drive.



Hallowweinerie



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Educating Bellini

PAUL BELLINI

As part of Mr. Leather Toronto Weekend, I attended two of the educational seminars presented by the organization, both of which were held in the Mackenzie King Room of the Primrose Hotel on Saturday, November 27, 2008.

The first workshop was entitled Scrotal Infusions (Saline) and was conducted by Marc Paquet-Decker and his boy Connor. (I love how in gay life the word 'boy' can describe someone in his sixth decade.) It was attended by 17 men and 6 women.

Marc was funny and charming as he demonstrated filling Connor's testes sack with a half litre of .9% saline solution. The saline bag is hung on a film tripod (cheaper than medical equipment and does the same thing) and connected to Connor's balls through an IV drip tube and a butterfly needle inserted precisely into his sack tissue. "Do not inject into the testicle," said Marc. "If you even so much as graze his testicles, it would take three hours to scrape him off the ceiling."

Prior to that, Connor's balls were pre-shaved and tied off with a cockring. His cock was already adorned with a Prince Albert and a Jacob's ladder, very busy down there. He sat, relaxed, arms folded, his ball sack gradually swelling to the size, colour and texture of a big pink grapefruit.



Marc cautions against using more than 2 litres as it may cause everything to stretch and even detach. "Then you'll have turkey neck between your legs for the rest of your life." He said that often the foreskin would also fill with solution and swell up, which makes it difficult to urinate. "Lots of pressure on the pisshole," he said. "You won't be able to pee unless you sit, but you don't pee in a stream, you more or less turn on a sprinkler. I sprayed myself like you wouldn't believe, like a squirt of Fantastic or a cute little fountain. I could have been in the middle of an Italian garden."



I had questions. How did all this start? Who came up with this idea? Another attendee mumbled an answer, something about doctors in WWII inflating the sack and shining a light behind it in order to find tumors or something. There was also some talk about how the rise in home care over the past two decades may have also contributed to the practice. I also asked how can you get that salt water back out of the sack? Marc said that since saline is naturally present in the body, it will merely absorb over time, usually about 24 hours, but if it doesn't and you end up with a case of severe scrotal cellulitis, go to emergency. A woman asked if she could inject her labia. Marc said he heard about some injecting their breasts.

What else? Oh, Marc talked about getting supplies from a medical supplies store, and cautioned not to go cheap and try to make your own solution using distilled water with table salt. "Some have tried, but they enjoyed the hospital after that." Much discussion about how to dispose of needles took place, and also never to do it if you take blood thinners.

Finally, Marc discussed sealing the puncture. "There are several things you could use. Polyfilla is not one of them," he said. "Polygrip is the best, the extra strength. It's cheaper than liquid band aid, and burns less than crazy glue."

Once the testes sack is full, you can have hours of fun kicking it around. Apparently, it's pretty difficult to fuck or cum with a swollen sack, so all the pleasure must be in the sheer fun of doing it.

The second workshop was entitled Resistance is Futile: Interrogation Scenes, and it was conducted by the soft-spoken Ingrid, certainly one of the scariest people I've ever laid eyes on. "When it comes to interrogation, there are no right answers," she grinned. A girl named Anna was tied to a chair, sobbing. Ingrid slapped her and asked, "Where is your bank?" Anna just kept sobbing. Ingrid took out a knife and teased Anna's nipples and pussy, then threw a pillow case over her head and continued to teach the class, which consisted of 24 women and 7 men. Why, I wondered, are women so drawn to the concept of interrogation? Is it because they are naturally nosey?

Ingrid started the discussion by asking us to determine if things were Hot or Bad, for example Abu Garib. Can something be both? She talked about how some people enjoy trauma. "If it doesn't end with blood or tears, then it's just an argument," said Ingrid. There was all this shit about religion, politics, race, class, yawn. There was also lots of talk about negotiating boundaries (i.e., no hair pulling, or no using racial slurs, etc.), and how to choose a safe word or gesture.

By far the most interesting bit was all the talk about arranged abductions, complete with a cavity search. But fear is an important element. "There is nothing worse than fire play with someone who has no fear of fire. You might as well have been playing Scrabble."

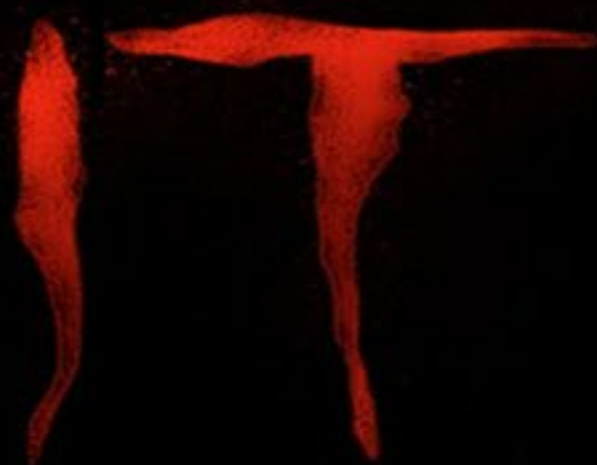
Ingrid told us a story about a woman who arranged to be kidnapped in public, but some passers-by panicked and tried to intervene. "Why are you doing this?" screamed one woman. "Because it's her birthday," replied Ingrid. "You mean she wants this?" asked the woman, which led into an impromptu seminar on BDSM. I'll bet that poor woman wished she had just stayed home that day.

Ingrid suggests that if you want to commit a criminal act, real or fake, just arrange for one of your number to shoot (or pretend to shoot) the whole thing on a mini-cam. Everyone will think you're just making a student film.

At the end of the session, after talking about the appeal of torture, power play, submission, trust issues, and even 'top drop' – meaning the torturer gets all fatigued after torturing someone else – Ingrid finally untied Anna. Anna glowed. She had obviously been having the time of her life.



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LEE FANCY LEBER



We live in a world where the latest technology gadgets have taken over our lives. We buy multiuse battery chargers which charge multiple devices so we can save on chargers and batteries. We own digital cameras, mobile phones, MP3 players, GPS, camcorders, radios, PDA and many other devices which require chargers. Many of our gizmo's can be charged through a USB cord which runs along a USB port in your computer. Try to save space and save energy by using multipurpose chargers to charge your electronic devices.

Batteries cause environmental hazard because of the toxic waste that they emit after use. Since batteries are being produced in tons and disposed in the same fashion there is a growing cause of concern. There are certain chemicals which are unsafe that are present in batteries which are very difficult to recycle. There are several take-back programs initiated for used batteries but quite a few of those batteries are disposed in trash.



Rechargeable batteries are the best option. They may be slightly expensive but think in terms of the money as well as waste saved in this process as you don't have to get new batteries, you can just recharge the batteries if the charge drains off. Rechargeable AAA and AA batteries are the best options available to go green, and you can charge them a thousand times.

Also try to limit the number of batteries you need. Buy a universal remote for your home entertainment system--after a day of Boxing week shopping this year, we have 4 remotes and that is a lot of batteries to keep everything going.



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Sean Leber - Founder, MGT Creative Director, and contributing editor.



Raymond Helkio - is an author, director and award-winning filmmaker. He cofounded TheReadingSalon.ca



Paul Bellini was a writer for The Kids in the Hall and a producer for This Hour Has 22 Minutes, and columnist at Fab Magazine...



Bil Antoniou - is an actor and play writer. He is also movie reviewer who has been writing for myoldaddiction.com



Rolyn Chabers was a fab columnist and currently social columnist for Daily Xtra!



Sky Gilbert - Canadian writer, actor, academic and drag performer. skygilbert.blogspot.ca



Alexandra Matveeva - owner of toronto lesbian website - letzto.com

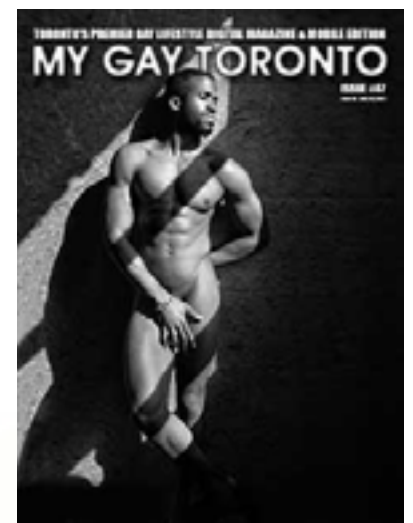


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